

-- 56 (twice amended). [The gasket of claim 55] A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, comprising:

a first strip of a material that is adapted for sealing which is formed in a loop and has an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop and having an inner periphery that is greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip, wherein the outer periphery of said second strip includes a concave notch adapted for receiving a thickness gauge.

59 (twice amended). [The gasket of claim 55] A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, comprising:

a first strip of a material that is adapted for sealing which is formed in a loop and has an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop and having an inner periphery that is greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip, wherein said first and said second strips have corresponding inner peripheries, the gasket further comprising a third strip of said sealing material formed in a loop, said third strip having an outer periphery that is less than the inner periphery of said first strip, and at least

one inner spoke of said sealing material extending between said third strip and said first strip[, wherein remaining spaces between said second strip, said third strip and said at least one inner spoke are substantially void].

63 (amended). [The gasket of claim 60,] A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, comprising:

a first strip of a material that is adapted for sealing which is formed in a loop and has an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop and having an inner periphery that is greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip, further comprising an open alignment spoke of said sealing material extending outwardly from said second strip, said open alignment spoke defining an alignment concavity for placement adjacent a fastener, and wherein the outer periphery of said second strip includes a concave notch adapted for receiving a thickness gauge.

66 (amended). [The gasket of claim 60] A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, comprising:

a first strip of a material that is adapted for sealing which is formed in a loop and has an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop and having an inner periphery that is greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip, further comprising an open alignment spoke of said sealing material extending outwardly from said second strip, said open alignment spoke defining an alignment concavity for placement adjacent a fastener, wherein said first and said second strips have corresponding inner peripheries, the gasket further comprising a third strip of said sealing material formed in a loop, said third strip having an outer periphery that is less than the inner periphery of said first strip, and at least one inner spoke of said sealing material extending between said third strip and said first strip[, wherein remaining spaces between said second strip, said third strip and said at least one inner spoke are substantially void].

70 (twice amended). [The gasket of claim 67,] A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, comprising:

a first strip of a material that is adapted for sealing which is formed in a loop and has an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop and having an inner periphery that is greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip, further comprising a closed alignment spoke of said sealing material extending outwardly from said second strip, wherein said closed alignment spoke includes an aperture therethrough for receiving a bolt, and wherein the outer periphery of said second strip includes a concave notch adapted for receiving a thickness gauge.

73 (twice amended). [The gasket of claim 67] A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, comprising:

a first strip of a material that is adapted for sealing which is formed in a loop and has an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop and having an inner periphery that is greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip, further comprising a closed alignment spoke of said sealing material extending outwardly from said second strip, wherein said closed alignment spoke includes an aperture therethrough for receiving a bolt, wherein said first and said second strips have corresponding inner peripheries, the gasket further comprising a third strip of said sealing material formed in a loop, said third strip having an outer periphery that is less than the inner periphery of said first strip, and at least one inner spoke of said sealing material extending between said third strip and said first strip[, wherein remaining spaces between said second strip, said third strip and said at least one inner spoke are substantially void].

79 (twice amended). [The gasket of claim 76,] A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, comprising:

a first strip of a material that is adapted for sealing which is formed in a loop and has an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop and having an inner periphery that is greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip, further comprising an open alignment spoke of said sealing material extending outwardly from said second strip, said open alignment spoke defining an alignment concavity for placement adjacent a fastener, further comprising a closed alignment spoke of said sealing material extending outwardly from said second strip, wherein said closed alignment spoke includes an aperture therethrough for receiving a bolt, and wherein the outer periphery of said second strip includes a concave notch adapted for receiving a thickness gauge.

82 (twice amended). [The gasket of claim 76] A gasket for providing a seal at the joint between a pair of pipe flanges for connecting one flange to the other, comprising:

a first strip of a material that is adapted for sealing which is formed in a loop and has an outer periphery;

a second strip of said sealing material formed in a loop and having an inner periphery that is greater than the outer periphery of said first strip; and

at least one spoke of said sealing material extending between said first strip and said second strip, further comprising an open alignment spoke of said sealing material extending outwardly from said second strip, said open alignment spoke defining an alignment concavity for placement adjacent a fastener, further comprising a closed alignment spoke of said sealing material extending outwardly from said second strip, wherein said closed alignment spoke includes an aperture therethrough for receiving a bolt,
wherein said first and said second strips have corresponding inner peripheries, the gasket further comprising a third strip of said sealing material formed in a loop, said third strip having an outer periphery that is